



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Secretary Marin Headlines *Summer of Small Business Tour***

*Summer tour will recruit and educate small business owners to get certified and bid on government contracts to improve value for taxpayers*

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State and Consumer Services, Rosario Marin kicked-off the *Summer of Small Business Tour* this morning during her welcoming remarks at today's California Small Business Day in downtown Sacramento. The *Tour* aims to increase the number of small businesses certified to contract with the State of California and expand the pool of talent and products the State purchases to increase value for taxpayer dollars.

In 2007, the state spent more than \$2.9 billion with small businesses and disabled or veteran business enterprises (DVBE) and exceeded Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order to utilize them to execute at least 25 percent of state contracting. The State and Consumer Services Agency has committed to surpassing those numbers in the 2008-2009 purchasing year and believes outreach and business-owner education is key.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our state's economic strength and it's imperative that government does everything in its power to help them flourish" said Secretary Marin.

"Educating California's small businesses on how to do business with the state will be my top priority this summer and I can't wait to hit the road."

State and Consumer Services Agency drastically streamlined the small business and DVBE certification process in 2007. Now, business owners can certify their enterprises online in thirty minutes, whereas previously certification could take months.

This summer, the State and Consumer Services Agency will be making appearances at business expos, town halls and chamber meetings in a coordinated effort to reach out to small business owners about how to contract with government. The Summer of Small Business Tour begins with today's event in Sacramento at the Small Business Association's California Small Business Day. For a complete list of events and appearances, please visit the State and Consumer Services Agency Web Site ([www.scsa.ca.gov](http://www.scsa.ca.gov)) and click on the *Summer of Small Business Tour* backstage pass.

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